

RECEIVED

IN THE CLAIMS

JUL 12 2001

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Jul 12 /
2. A method for use by a pregnant woman for identifying the premature
rupture of a membrane during pregnancy, the method comprising the sequential steps of:

forming an article for wearing substantially adjacent the crotch of the pregnant
woman;

B1 /
applying to said article a pH-sensitive material capable of responding by way of a
visible change to the presence of a fluid with a pH in the range of amniotic fluid, said pH-
sensitive material having a readily applicable form, said form being selected from the
group consisting of liquid drops, atomized spray, aerosol liquid, powder, gel, and a solid;

wearing said article for a period of time; and

visualizing said pH-sensitive material for a visible change.

3. The method of Claim 2, wherein said article for wearing is an
undergarment.

4. The method of Claim 2, wherein said article for wearing is a pad.

5. The method of Claim 2, wherein said article for wearing is a fluid
collecting device.

6. The method of Claim 2, wherein said pH-sensitive material is non-irritating to the woman.

Duly s 7. A method for use by a pregnant woman for identifying the premature
rupture of a membrane during pregnancy, the method comprising the sequential steps of:
B / cont forming an article for wearing substantially adjacent the crotch of the pregnant
woman;

wearing said article for a period of time;
applying to said article a pH-sensitive material capable of responding by way of a
visible change to the presence of a fluid with a pH in the range of amniotic fluid; and
visualizing said pH-sensitive material for a visible change.

8. The method of Claim 7, wherein said pH-sensitive material is provided in
a readily applicable form, said form being selected from the group consisting of liquid
drops, atomized spray, aerosol liquid, powder, gel, and a solid.

9. The method of Claim 7, wherein said article for wearing is an
undergarment.

10. The method of Claim 7, wherein said article for wearing is a pad.

11. The method of Claim 7, wherein said article for wearing is a fluid collecting device.

12. The method of Claim 7, wherein said pH-sensitive material is non-irritating to the woman.

B1
cont'd
13. A system for use by a pregnant woman for identifying the premature rupture of a membrane during pregnancy by detecting the presence of amniotic fluid outside the amnion, the system comprising:

Dkt 37
an article for wearing substantially adjacent the crotch of a pregnant woman; and
a pH-sensitive material capable of responding by way of a visible change to the presence of fluid with a pH in the range of amniotic fluid, said material being applicable by the woman to said article prior to said article being worn, the pH-sensitive material having a form selected from the group consisting of liquid drops, an atomized spray, an aerosol liquid, a powder, a gel, and a solid;

whereby the woman visualizes said article after wearing said article to observe a visual change.

14. The system of Claim 13, wherein said article for wearing is an undergarment.

15. The system of Claim 13, wherein said article for wearing is a pad.

16. The system of Claim 13, wherein said article for wearing is a fluid collecting device.

17. The system of Claim 13, wherein said pH-sensitive material is non-irritating to the woman.

*B1 f
cont.*
18. A system for use by a pregnant woman for identifying the premature rupture of a membrane during pregnancy by detecting the presence of amniotic fluid outside the amnion, the system comprising:

an article for wearing substantially adjacent the crotch of a pregnant woman; and
a pH-sensitive material capable of responding by a visible change to the presence of a fluid with a pH in the range of amniotic fluid, said material being applicable by the woman to said article after said article is worn, the pH-sensitive material having a form selected from the group consisting of liquid drops, an atomized spray, an aerosol liquid, a powder, a gel, and a solid;

whereby the woman applies said pH-sensitive material to said article after said article is worn and visualizes said pH sensitive material to observe a visible change.

19. The system of Claim 18, wherein said article for wearing is an undergarment.

20. The system of Claim 18, wherein said article for wearing is a pad.
21. The system of Claim 18, wherein said article is a fluid collecting device.
22. The system of Claim 18, wherein said pH-sensitive material is non-irritating to the woman.
- b (c) 1 (f)
23. An article for identifying the premature rupture of a membrane during pregnancy by detecting the presence of amniotic fluid outside the amnion, the article comprising:
- a covering component for temporary placement on a finger;
 - a pH-sensitive component fitted to said covering component;
- wherein when said pH-sensitive component of said covering component is placed in contact with a fluid having a pH in the range of amniotic fluid, said pH-sensitive component undergoes a visible change.
24. The article of Claim 23, wherein said covering component is a finger glove.
25. The article of Claim 23, wherein said covering component is a hand glove.

26. The article of Claim 23, wherein said pH-sensitive component is selected from the group consisting of a solid, a liquid, a gel, or a spray.

27. An article for identifying the premature rupture of a membrane during pregnancy by detecting the presence of amniotic fluid outside the amnion, the article comprising:

*b1
conf*

a graspable component capable of being grasped; and
a pH-sensitive component fitted to said graspable component,
whereby when said pH-sensitive component is placed in contact with a fluid having a pH in the range of amniotic fluid, said pH-sensitive component undergoes a visible change.

28. The article of Claim 27, wherein said graspable component is a stick.

29. The article of Claim 27, wherein said graspable component is a swab.

30. The article of Claim 27, wherein said pH-sensitive component is selected from the group consisting of a solid, a liquid, a gel, or a spray.

DWJ

31. A method for use by a pregnant woman for identifying the premature rupture of a membrane during pregnancy by detecting the presence of amniotic fluid outside the amnion, the method comprising:

DP applying to a surface which is suspected to have amniotic fluid a pH-sensitive material capable of responding by way of a visible change to the presence of a fluid having a pH in the range of amniotic fluid, said pH-sensitive material being selected from the group consisting of a solid, a liquid, and a gel.

- B1
cont*
32. The method of Claim 31, wherein said surface is skin.
 33. The method of Claim 31, wherein said solid is in a form taken from the group consisting of a powder and a solid in the form of a sheet or a strip.
 34. The method of Claim 31, wherein said liquid is in a form taken from the group consisting of drops, atomized spray, and aerosol.